T O S

December

1976

Olivaceous Cormorant on nest on Sidney Island, in Sabine Lake, April 1976. Photograph by R. Douglas Slack.

Bulletin of the
TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume IX, December 1976

CONTENTS

2 The Texas Nongame Wildlife Program
Danny A. Swepston
4 The Status of the Families Vireonidae and Parulidae in Lubbock and Crosby Counties in Texas
Alfred D. Bjelland
Sharon Menaul
6 General Notes
Wanderings of Texas Birds
Keith A. Arnold
G. Fred Collins
First Nesting Record of Anna's Hummingbird in Texas
John R. Schmidt
7 First Record of White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) for Texas
George W. Jury
8 Possible Chuck-will's-widow Nesting in a Residential Area
Charles R. Brown
First Presidio County and Texas Winter Record of the Olivaceous Flycatcher
Steve West
Previously Published Records from Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Bill Principe
9 Recent Articles About Texas Birds
James P. Griffing
Michael L. Morrison
11 Book Reviews
Notes and News
Suggestions to Authors
Requests for Information
From the Editor

The Bulletin and Newsletter of the Texas Ornithological Society are issued to all members not in arrears for dues. Inquiries regarding membership should be addressed to Mr. Victor Emanuel, President, Texas Ornithological Society, 1603 W. Clay, Houston, Texas 77019. Original articles, reports and other items submitted for inclusion in the TOS Bulletin should be sent to the editor, Dr. R. Douglas Slack, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS. Danny Swepston is a wildlife biologist in the nongame wildlife program of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He has been particularly involved in a life history study of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in East Texas. His informative article on the nongame program provides *TOS* members an indication of the involvement of the State of Texas in nongame wildlife research and management.

The status of vireos and wood warblers in the Panhandle is clarified by Alfred Bjelland, who is now Supervisor of Education at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Sharon Menaul who resides in Kettering, Ohio. Sharon Menaul was formerly editor of the Llano Estacado Audubon Society Newsletter.

Three of the authors of notes in this issue are from the Panhandle or the South Plains regions of Texas. George W. Jury, D.V.M. is an active birder from Lubbock, Texas. John R. Schmidt, a retired Army Colonel, is from Alpine, Texas. Steve West is a high school teacher from Presidio, Texas.

Charles R. Brown, the author of the Chuck-will's-widow note, is a high school student from Sherman, Texas. He is currently involved in a study of Purple Martin behavior and has been a regular contributor to the *TOS Bulletin*.

The note on Carlsbad Caverns National Park birds was written by the editor of the New Mexico Ornithological Society *Bulletin*, Bill Principe.

Dr. Keith Arnold is a faithful *TOS Bulletin* contributor. During the past years Keith Arnold and his students have banded over 100,000 birds. G. Fred Collins, an active *TOS* member from Houston, Texas, has contributed significantly to Arnold's banding program through his extensive banding efforts in the Houston-Galveston area.

James P. Griffing, a graduate student in biology at Texas Tech University, collaborated with Michael L. Morrison, a graduate student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, to prepare the abstracts. Michael Morrison, a Welder Wildlife Foundation Fellow, has undertaken a study of the Olivaceous Cormorant in Texas.

The book reviews were contributed by Sherry Heiden, a teacher at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas, Mark Byard, formerly a graduate student from Texas Tech University and Michael Kent Rylander, formerly editor of the *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*.

ABOUT THE ARTIST. James H. Johnson.—The drawing on the front cover is by James H. Johnson of Bryan, Texas. A native of Midland, Texas, James Johnson's wildlife art includes work in a variety of media. He has recently completed a collection of wildlife bronze sculpture of mammals and birds set in their natural habitats. Jim Johnson is a veterinary toxicologist with the United States Department of Agriculture at College Station, Texas. He and his wife reside at 1908 Carter Creek Parkway, Bryan, Texas 77801.

The Texas Nongame Wildlife Program

by

Danny A. Swepston

IN response to a growing public concern for all types of Texas wildlife, House Bill No. 260 was passed by the State Legislature in March, 1973. This act created the nongame wildlife program within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and provided for the project's funding from the general revenue fund. The program's responsibility involves the development of management plans and regulations covering all the nongame species in the state, with special emphasis on those species listed as endangered.

Currently the program is composed of four biologists and one technician who are involved in research projects concerning a variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish. Those birds presently under study are the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), American and Arctic Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus anatum, Falco p. tundrius*), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos borealis*), Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*), and various species of fish-eating birds.

A five-year card survey of professional and public observers has resulted in the reporting of 1,324 Osprey and 2,340 Bald Eagle sightings from all portions of the state. This data has provided project personnel with a better understanding of the major wintering areas and seasonal population changes for both species in the state. The card survey plus an annual aerial survey has been used to determine the past and present nesting locations of the southern Bald Eagle. The aerial survey also enables project personnel to monitor the activity, status and production of each nest.

Since the Texas Peregrine Falcon population is composed of two subspecies, one resident and one migratory, it is necessary that the project conduct two separate surveys on this species. The Arctic peregrine migrates through the eastern and central portions of the state, but concentrates in greatest numbers along the coastal beaches and barrier islands. Since 1972 project personnel have conducted annual surveys during September and October at various locations along the Gulf coast to determine the number and age composition of the peregrine migration. Part of the survey includes a banding and color-marking program which was initiated in 1973 to determine the rate of migration, wintering areas, and breeding locations of the peregrines. Presently two of the 88 birds banded have been recovered from South America. It is hoped the data collected in these surveys will enable researchers to develop a method for monitoring long-term population changes in this species. The work on the American peregrine was initiated in April, 1975. The present research consists of annually locating the nest sites or eyries in the remote portions of west Texas and determining whether they are active or not. A study of the general biology and determination of limiting factors are planned for the near future.

An immature Arctic Peregrine Falcon banded on South Padre Island in October 1975. Note U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal band and the Texas Parks and Wildlife numbered, colored band (C63).

A banded, immature Great Blue Heron on Redfish Island in Galveston Bay. Note flag (red) on right leg, just above ankle.

The program's fish-eating bird work consists of a movement study and annual population survey. During the period of 1974-76 a total of 16,944 juvenile fish-eating birds of 12 different species were banded and color-marked at six locations in Texas to study the dispersion of the young birds from their home rookeries and determine how many return to their natal rookeries to breed. The population survey is conducted in cooperation with other public and private agencies and consists of an annual ground and aerial survey of fish-eating bird rookeries along the Texas coast to monitor changes in the populations of the various herons, egrets, skimmers, terns, gulls, spoonbills, and pelicans that nest in this area. An attempt is also being made to locate all of the major inland rookeries in the state.

The current work on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker consists of a study of the bird's life history. Timber management practices which are necessary for the woodpecker's survival could then be developed.

In 1974 the nongame program conducted a survey of Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat in Texas. The results of this survey were compared to a similar survey made 10 years earlier and showed little change in the distribution of the species.

Mammal research has been limited to preliminary work on the status of the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*), Mexican beaver (*Castor canadensis mexicanus*), Pecos River muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus ripensis*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), and the swift fox (*Vulpes velox*). Future plans call for the expansion of the work concerning these and other species of mammals.

Various cold-blooded species have been the subject of a variety of surveys conducted by the nongame personnel. The most intensive of these deals with the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), whose population has increased dramatically in Texas within the last few years. Project personnel have conducted night-count lines and aerial surveys since 1973 to monitor the alligator's numbers, distribution, and production in the eastern portions of the state. A similar survey is conducted in portions of east Texas to determine the status of the Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*). This toad is currently known from only two counties in Texas and is considered one of the rarest species in the state. Other species of cold-blooded vertebrates such as the San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*), Texas blind salamander (*Eurycea rathbuni*), Pecos gambusia (*Gambusia nobilis*), Clear Creek gambusia (*Gambusia heterochir*) and Fountain darter (*Etheostoma fonticola*) have been the subject of surveys by program personnel.

The nongame wildlife program is currently involved in a variety of research efforts, but the large number of species which have not been studied make it apparent that the amount of work to be accomplished in the future is almost unlimited.—*Wildlife biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., Austin, Texas 78744.*

Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel banding Cattle Egrets on Sidney Island in Sabine Lake, 1974.

The Status of the Families Vireonidae and Parulidae in Lubbock and Crosby Counties in Texas

by

Alfred D. Bjelland and Sharon Menaul

IN a state noted for its birds and birders, little is yet known about birds occurring in the western half of Texas with the exception of the Big Bend and Trans-Pecos regions. Almost nothing has been published on the Panhandle and South Plains and very little significant collecting has been done in this region. Oberholser (1974. *The Bird Life of Texas*, The Univ. Texas Press, Austin) lists one species of vireo and six species of warblers known to occur in Lubbock County and no vireos or warblers for Crosby County.

There have been a few active birders in Lubbock for many years; however, prior to 1971 there were few records of warblers or vireos. Since 1971, a small but very active group of birders has been intensively surveying the bird fauna of Lubbock County and keeping accurate records. A few specimens are indicated in the following species accounts but most of the records are sight records substantiated by two or more competent field observers. Crosby County records are primarily from one source, Rosemary English, a highly competent birder who lives on the rim of Blanco Canyon just below Silver Falls. She has kept detailed records for many years. Of her sightings, only those species that are regularly occurring or those substantiated by one or more competent observers are included. We thank her for making her records available to us. Also, special thanks to the many other birders in Lubbock whose efforts have provided data for this study.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*. Lubbock Co., rare migrant and possible summer resident. Oberholser (*op. cit.*) indicates a nesting sight record. Records for this species are sparse, April to June, with no fall records. There is one specimen at The Museum of Texas Tech University collected 9 May 1975.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*. Lubbock Co., one record (photographed), 25 May 1974.

Solitary Vireo *Vireo solitarius*. Lubbock Co., uncommon migrant recorded April to May and September to December. Both the *Blue-headed* and *Plumbeous form* have been observed. There is one specimen at The Museum of Texas Tech University dated 30 October 1958. Crosby Co., uncommon migrant, 20-26 April and 14 September to 26 October.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*. Lubbock Co., two sight records, 14 September 1975 and 1 May 1976. Two specimens April 1966 (Barr et al. 1975, *Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc.*, 7:8-10) and 30 September 1974.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*. Lubbock Co., irregular migrant recorded 3 October 1973, 23 and 26 April 1975, 3 and 15 May 1975 and 1 May 1976.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*. Lubbock Co., three records, one specimen at The Museum of Texas Tech University, 2 September 1972, 20 April 1974 and 14 May 1974.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*. Lubbock Co., rare migrant, recorded regularly but only during the months of April and September. There is one specimen at The Museum of Texas Tech University dated 10 September 1975. Crosby Co., rare migrant, recorded 7 April to 10 May and during September.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*. Lubbock Co., rare migrant, recorded 17 April to 15 May. No fall records.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*. Lubbock Co., one observed by many birders 8 May 1976.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus*. Lubbock Co., one record, 21 April 1976.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata*. Lubbock Co., common migrant and winter resident recorded 15 September through 31 May, records sparse for September and February. Crosby Co., common migrant, observed 12 February to 7 May and 29 September to 1 November.

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla*. Lubbock Co., common migrant, recorded 22 April to 31 May and 8 September through December. Crosby Co., common migrant recorded 10 April to 26 May and 29 September to 10 November.

Virginia's Warbler *Vermivora virginiae*. Lubbock Co., two records, 4 May and 14 May 1974. Many observers viewed this species on 14 May 1974.

Northern Parula *Parula americana*. Lubbock Co., one confirmed record, 20 April 1975. Crosby Co., rare spring migrant recorded 1 April to 26 April.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*. Lubbock Co., common migrant, recorded 23 April to 24 May and 12 August to 21 September. Crosby Co., common migrant.

Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia*. Lubbock Co., two records, 21 April 1974 and 14 May 1974.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*. Lubbock Co., one spring and three fall records, 7 May 1975, 27 September 1974 and 13-14 October 1974.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*. Lubbock Co., abundant migrant and winter resident, recorded all months except June, July and August. Least abundant January, February and March. Crosby Co., abundant migrant and winter resident, recorded 7 October to 14 May.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*. Lubbock Co., two spring records, 4 April 1974 and 3 April 1975.

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*. Lubbock Co., rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant, recorded 3-10 May and 12 September to 14 November.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*. Lubbock Co., one record, 17 May 1976. Crosby Co., one sighted 14 October 1970, two individuals seen 23-24 October 1974, and one 15 September 1975.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*. Lubbock Co., rare spring migrant, 30 April-18 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea*. Lubbock Co., a single record, 13 May 1975.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*. Lubbock Co., an individual seen on 2-3 May 1975, four sightings during the period 9-17 May 1976.

Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus*. Lubbock Co., three records, October 1966, 21 October 1974 and 11 January 1975.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Lubbock Co., one unconfirmed sight record September 1971, two specimens, May 1966 (*Ibid.*) and 23 April 1976. The 1976 specimen is housed at The Museum of Texas Tech University.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*. Lubbock Co., irregular spring migrant, recorded March, April and May. Crosby Co., uncommon spring migrant, observed 1-16 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*. Lubbock Co., one record, 15 May 1975.

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus*. Lubbock Co., one sight record, 1 May 1976.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*. Lubbock Co., common migrant, most common in spring, recorded 4-31 May, one April and one June (no date) record for 1966, 8 September to 8 October. Crosby Co., uncommon migrant, 30 April to 23 May, not recorded in fall but undoubtedly occurs.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*. Lubbock Co., uncommon migrant, occasionally winters, recorded 7 April to 4 May, November, December and February. Crosby Co., uncommon migrant, 29 March-13 May with a few fall records.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*. Lubbock Co., early specimen at The Museum of Texas Tech University dated 30 May 1930, only known recent records, 20 May 1972 and 9 and 12 May 1975. Crosby Co., uncommon migrant, 9-13 May, 14-30 September.

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina*. Lubbock Co., four spring records, April 1966, 28 April 1974 (photographed), 10 May 1974 and 11 May 1975.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*. Lubbock Co., abundant migrant, 16 April to 15 June, 1 September to 13 November. Crosby Co., abundant migrant.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*. Lubbock Co., uncommon migrant, 3-24 May, 21 September to 15 November. Crosby Co., uncommon migrant, 4-6 May, 14-29 September.

ALFRED D. BJELLAND, *Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213*
SHARON MENAUL, *4967 Harwich Court, Kettering, Ohio 45440*

GENERAL NOTES

WANDERINGS OF TEXAS BIRDS

ONE of the pleasures of bird banding is the expectancy for recoveries of your birds from other states and countries. From the tens of thousands of birds banded by Arnold and his students in Texas, there have been several such recoveries that demonstrate the wanderings of our avifauna. Some of the more interesting recoveries are summarized below.

Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*). A nestling banded near Port Bolivar on 4 July 1973 was recovered near Creole, Cameron Parish, Louisiana in January 1974. Actually, the band and a small portion of the leg were found in a trap set for muskrat. No other remains of the bird were evident (Mrs. Charles Hebert, *in litt.*).

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). An adult bittern, banded on 4 February 1972 at the Moore Farm in Brazos County, was shot on a duck hunt near Cameron, Louisiana, in December 1973.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). Two recoveries have been made of birds banded as nestlings near Port Bolivar in June 1974. One bird was caught and released at California Point, Louisiana on 10 November 1974. The second bird was caught and released at Venice, Louisiana on 14 June 1976.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*). Two birds, banded as nestlings in July 1973 near Port Bolivar have been found dead. One skimmer was recovered on 20 October 1974 near Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico. The other bird was recovered in the fall of 1975 at Johnson Bayou, Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). An adult male banded in College Station on 8 February 1971 was found dead (probably hit by a car) near Whittemore, Michigan on 9 August 1971.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). An individual banded on 5 April 1974 near Burkeville, Newton County, was found dead in January 1976 at Comapa, Jutiapa, Guatemala.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Although we have had numerous out-of-state recoveries for this species (reported elsewhere), one of the most unusual is an immature male banded in College Station on 5 March 1972 and recovered on 12 December of the same year on the Delevan National Wildlife Refuge in California.

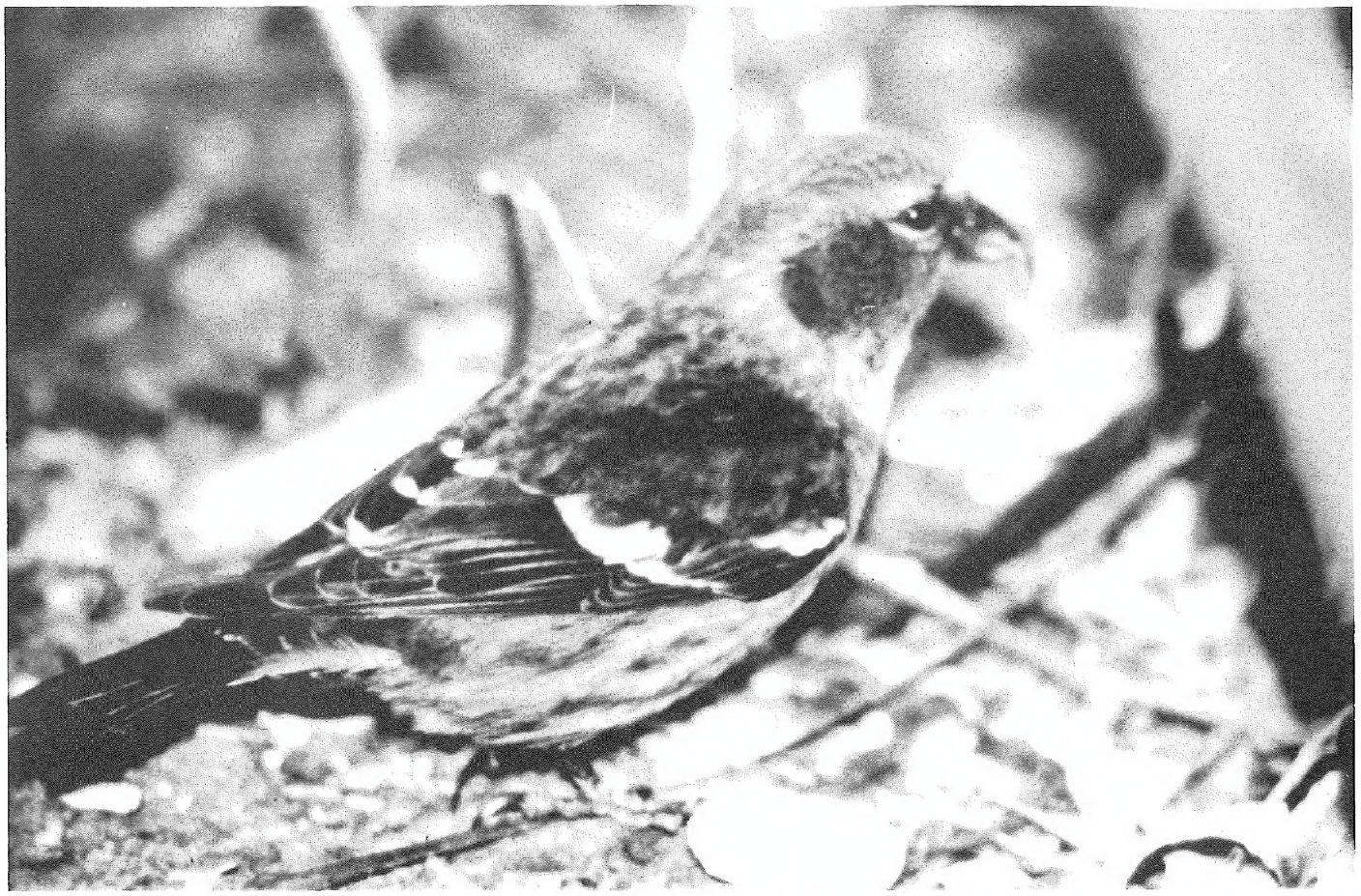
Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). The single out-of-state recovery is of a female or immature male banded on 31 January 1973 and recovered on 8 February 1975 in Marion, South Carolina.—KEITH A. ARNOLD, *Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843 and* G. FRED COLLINS, *1731 Ashford Hollow, Houston, Texas 77077.*

FIRST NESTING RECORD OF ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD IN TEXAS

ON 17 April 1976 a female Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) was observed 24 km north of Alpine off of State Highway 118 in Jeff Davis County, Texas. The bird was observed again on 18 April 1976 by seven birders from the Alpine area. The hummingbird's nest was found in a 3 m hackberry tree 1.5 m above the ground. The female was photographed while sitting on the nest by James Scudday of Alpine on 18 April 1976. The photograph has been placed in the Texas Photo-record File (No. 101) at Texas A&M University. On several occasions the male was observed by the author, as well as others from Alpine, giving courtship flight displays.

Two eggs were found in the nest on 20 April 1976. The female was observed sitting on the nest again on 21 April, presumably incubating the eggs. One week later Mrs. Jim (Pansy) Espy of Fort Davis, Texas, found the nest in disarray minus the two eggs. One side of the nest had been pulled down suggesting predation related mortality. Neither of the Anna's Hummingbirds were observed thereafter. The nest has been placed in the Sul Ross State University Museum at Alpine, Texas.

These observations represent the first spring as well as the first breeding attempt of Anna's Hummingbird in Texas. Wauer (1973. *Birds of Big Bend National Park and Vicinity*, Univ. Texas Press, Austin) reported a single adult at Boot Springs in Big Bend National Park on 24 July 1940. The remaining records of the occurrence of Anna's Hummingbird



White-winged Crossbill in Lubbock, Texas, winter, 1976. Photograph by George W. Jury.

in Texas as reviewed by Wauer (*op. cit.*), Oberholser (1974. *The Bird Life of Texas*, Univ. Texas Press, Austin) and Arnold and Kutac (1975. *Check-list of the Birds of Texas*, Texas Ornithological Society) extend from August thru February.—JOHN R. SCHMIDT, *P.O. Box 1438, Alpine, Texas 79830.*

FIRST RECORD OF WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (*LOXIA LEUCOPTERA*) FOR TEXAS

THE White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*), a resident of northern coniferous forests of North America, has not previously been reported in Texas. Arnold and Kutac (1975. *Checklist of the Birds of Texas*, Texas Ornithological Society) do not list the White-winged Crossbill as occurring in Texas. Sutton (1967. *Oklahoma Birds*, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman) considers the White-winged Crossbill an irregular visitor to Oklahoma. Sutton (*op. cit.*) lists one record each for New Mexico (from Ligon 1961. *New Mexico Birds and Where to Find Them*, Univ. of New Mexico Press) and Arkansas (from Baerg 1951. *Birds of Arkansas*, Univ. of Arkansas College, Agricultural Bulletin, 258:1-188).

On 25 December 1975 a male White-winged Crossbill was observed at a bird feeder at my home in Lubbock, Texas. A male frequented the bird feeder and surrounding property from 25 December 1975 until 8 March 1976. The bird was observed by numerous members of the Llano Estacada Audubon Society as well as birders from Austin, Midland and Wichita Falls. A photograph of the bird has been verified and deposited in the Texas Photo-record File at Texas A&M University, as No. 94.

The male crossbill fed on sunflower seeds from the bird feeder. Seeds obtained from the feeder were held by the feet and opened with the "crossed-mandibles." The crossbill was also observed to feed on aphids in Piñon Pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) trees on our property.—GEORGE W. JURY, D.V.M., *4808 50th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79414.*

POSSIBLE CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW NESTING IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) nests primarily in mixed oak and pine woods (Bent 1940. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 176:149). I have been unable to find any published reports of this species breeding in residential areas or open habitats. On 3 August 1975 a resident in southeast Sherman, Texas, phoned me to report some unusual birds in her yard. Visiting the location on 4 August, I found one juvenile Chuck-will's-widow that was nearing fledging age under a small ornamental cedar. Excessive excrement was noted on the ground under the bush. The residents of this area reported seeing bird activity in and around the cedar each evening for the past week, although they were unsure of the identity of the birds involved. Returning to the area on 5 August, I found the juvenile gone. It looked capable of sustained flight the day before.

Although I failed to note a scrape, I feel confident that these birds had been nesting in the immediate vicinity. The nearest woodlands were at least 9.6 km away. A large field adjoining an airstrip was located approximately 30 m from the cedar, but residential area surrounded the airfield. The excrement and observations of the supposed adult birds lends support to a conclusion that these Chuck-will's-widows were nesting under the ornamental cedar, but there is also a slight possibility that the birds were nesting in the nearby field. No evidence supported the possibility that the juvenile Chuck was brought in by humans or dogs.—CHARLES R. BROWN, *2601 Turtle Creek Drive, Sherman, Texas 75090.*

FIRST PRESIDIO COUNTY AND TEXAS WINTER RECORD OF THE OLIVACEOUS FLYCATCHER

OBERHOLSER (1974. *The Bird Life of Texas*, Univ. of Texas Press, Austin, Vol. 2) characterizes the Olivaceous Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) as "rare to casual in Trans-Pecos Texas" and cites records for El Paso and Brewster Counties. Although apparently not reported in El Paso County since the first record in May, 1891, the records from Brewster County are much more recent. Wauer (1973. *Birds of Big Bend National Park and Vicinity*, Univ. of Texas Press, Austin) cites seven records of this species in the park from 7 April to 7 July with an abnormally late trio on 23 October 1968. The Big Bend records range from the 1950's until the early 1970's and from the lowlands at Rio Grande Village into higher portions of the Chisos Mountains.

It appears that the only other Texas record is one in Madera Canyon, Jeff Davis County by Keith A. Arnold on 9 May 1968 (1968, *Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc.* 2:28).

On 28 February 1976 Leslie Armistead and I were birding along the Rio Grande, downriver 2.5 km from the mouth of Alamito Creek, Presidio County, when a single *Myiarchus* flycatcher was noted in a stand of salt cedar (*Tamarix* sp.) and mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.). The bird was observed for about 15 min from as close as 4 m. It appeared a bit smaller than the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). A yellow wash was present on the belly and side and the tail lacked any hint of red or rust coloration. There was a lack of contrast on the throat which is typical of the Ash-throated Flycatcher.

Armistead was not previously familiar with the species; West had observed the Ash-throated Flycatcher in Arizona, Mexico and during a three-year period in the Canal Zone and Panama.

The occurrence of this species in Presidio County is not surprising in light of the many records from neighboring Brewster County and the lone record from Jeff Davis County.—STEVE WEST, *Box 1248, Presidio, Texas 79845.*

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK

WHILE Tyler (1975, *Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc.* 8:10-11) reports some interesting bird observations from Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico, none is a first published record, as claimed. Similar or identical data have appeared at earlier dates in the New Mexico Ornithological Society *Bulletin* or *Field Notes*.

Hubbard (1975, New Mexico Ornithological Society *Bulletin* 3(3):13-15) reports a nesting pair of Eastern Bluebirds at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, presumably the same pair seen by Tyler. Hubbard, too, notes that this is the first reported nesting of this species in New Mexico. These birds were netted and banded during the period May 1-4. Ed. Note: Tyler's bluebird observation was in press prior to publication of NMOS *Bull.* 3(3).

Common Ground Doves were reported by Steve West at Carlsbad Caverns National Park on 17 December 1972 (1973, *Field Notes* 73-1:10).

Brown Thrashers are reported in the pages of the *Field Notes* from either Carlsbad Caverns National Park or the Carlsbad area virtually every year.

While there is no report of Tree Swallows from Carlsbad Caverns National Park in recent issues of the *Field Notes*, they are regular migrants throughout New Mexico. They are reported, for instance, near Carlsbad on 1 and 7 August 1972 (1972, *Field Notes* 72-2:38).

Texas birders who visit and bird New Mexico should consider joining the New Mexico Ornithological Society. Dues are $5.00 per year ($2.50 for students) and include subscriptions to both the *Bulletin* and *Field Notes*. Remit dues to Claudia Hubbard, Secretary, New Mexico Ornithological Society, 2097 Camino Lado, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Reports of observations in New Mexico, such as those of Tyler, are solicited for the *Field Notes*. These data will also be used in the upcoming revision of Hubbard's *Check-list of the birds of New Mexico*, also published by the New Mexico Ornithological Society. Send observations, with details, to John Hubbard, Editor, NMOS *Field Notes*, at the above address. Starting with volume 5, 1977, Dr. Hubbard will also be editor of the *Bulletin*.—BILL PRINCIPE, *Editor, NMOS Bulletin, Dept. of Biology, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003.*

RECENT ARTICLES ABOUT TEXAS BIRDS

—1975—

Allaire, P. N., and C. D. Fisher. 1975. *Feeding ecology of three resident sympatric sparrows in eastern Texas.* Auk 92:260-269. Bachman's, Field, and Chipping Sparrows of Nacogdoches County foraged in different ways for different sizes and shapes of food. Field and Chipping Sparrows were most similar in food and feeding habits.

Arnold, K. A. 1975. *First record of the Greater Shearwater from the Gulf of Mexico.* Auk 92:394-395. Bird found nearly dead (later died) at Galveston Beach is "not only the first record for Texas, but for the entire Gulf of Mexico." Ed. Note: Recent information indicates that this specimen is not the first Gulf of Mexico record.

Arvin, J., J. Arvin, C. Cottam, and G. Unland. 1975. *Mexican Crow invades south Texas.* Auk 92:387-390. Found in Cameron, Willacy and southern Kenedy Counties but not recorded nesting.

Balda, R. P., B. C. McKnight, and C. D. Johnson. 1975. *Flammulated Owl migration in the southwestern United States.* Wilson Bull. 87: 520-533. One bird observed at Hot Well, Texas.

Beasom, S. L., and O. H. Pattee. 1975. *An encounter between a turkey and a bullsnake.* Wilson Bull. 87:281-282. Snake received probably fatal wounds.

Blem, C. R. 1975. *Geographic variation in wing-loading of the House Sparrow.* Wilson Bull. 87:543-549. Considered birds from several areas, including Plainview. Body weights were greater in more northern birds due to increased body fat required for survival during colder winter nights. However, wing size did not increase and, therefore, more northern birds had increased wing loading.

Bock, C. E., and L. W. Lepthien. 1975. *A Christmas count analysis of woodpecker abundance in the United States.* Wilson Bull. 87: 355-366. Within Texas, they considered "mesquite-acacia" region of the south and "central Texas savannah" region. Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were abundant in first; these two plus Common Flicker in second region.

Bolen, E. G., and C. Cottam. 1975. *Notes on the color phases of the Reddish Egret (Dichromanassa rufescens) in Texas.* Southwest. Nat. 20:133-134. Found the ratio of white to reddish-phase individuals in a large flock (n = 206) to be about 1:19. Discussed selective pressure(s) enhancing an expression of color variation.

Brown, C. R. 1975. *Polygamy in the Purple Martin.* Auk 92:602-604. In two instances, males maintained pair bonds with two females. Males fed young of both of their mates and all nests were successful. Lack of breeding places and males is not believed to be a factor.

Cottam, C., E. G. Bolen, and R. Zink. 1975. *Sabine's Gull on south Texas coast.* Southwest. Nat. 20:134-135. Not a first record . . . "probably the most southern record for the species on the Texas Gulf Coast . . . south Padre Island."

Crawford, J. A., and E. G. Bolen. 1975. *Spring lek activity of the Lesser Prairie Chicken in west Texas.* Auk 92:808-810. Censuses and gobbling activity studied in Yoakum County. More cocks were seen during morning counts than evening. Most hens were seen during first half of April.

Delnicki, D., and E. G. Bolen. 1975. *Natural nest site availability for Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in south Texas.* Southwest. Nat. 20: 371-378. May nest in trees a considerable distance from water. Number of available cavities suitable for nesting, by itself, is not a limiting factor in southern Texas.

Dixon, M. A. 1975. *Comparisons between pelican gastrolithic and other otolith assemblages.* Texas J. Sci. 26:479-484. A food pyramid for the Brown Pelican is defined, and prey species described.

Fears, O. T., III. 1975. *Observations on the aerial drinking performance of a Poor-will.* Wilson Bull. 87:284. At Amistad Lake in mid-morning.

Flickinger, E. L. 1975. *Incubation by a male Fulvous Tree Duck.* Wilson Bull. 87:106-107. Near El Campo in Wharton County.

Gates, C. E., T. L. Clark, and K. E. Gamble. 1975. *Optimizing Mourning Dove breeding population surveys in Texas.* J. Wildl. Manage. 39:237-242. Optimization results are presented on extensive data from Texas for several dove characteristics from 1967-1972.

Gates, C. E., H. O. Hartley, and K. S. E. Jayatillake. 1975. *Texas Mourning Dove harvest survey.* Texas J. Sci. 26:459-471. The 1970 dove harvest was estimated using mail questionnaires and field surveys.

Guthery, F. S. 1975. *Food habits of Sandhill Cranes in southern Texas.* J. Wildl. Manage. 39:221-223. Food items in the gizzard of 70 cranes were collected during the winter of 1971-72; birds consumed tubers, bulbs, or roots of most plants.

Guthery, F. S. 1975. *Footprint measurements of Canadian Sandhill Cranes.* J. Wildl. Manage. 39:447-448. Separating subspecies by footprint measurements was shown to be difficult with much size overlap.

Hardy, J. W. 1975. *A tape recording of a possible Ivory-billed Woodpecker call.* Am. Birds 29:647-651. The calls of a bird recorded near the Neches River were either that of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker or a Blue Jay; no conclusion was reached utilizing audiospectrograms.

Hubbard, J. P., and D. M. Niles. 1975. *Two specimen records of the Brown Jay from southern Texas.* Auk 92:797-798. Skin from 1897 and set of six eggs from 1900 taken from Brownsville area "constitute the first valid records . . ." for the United States.

Martin, J. W., and J. C. Kroll. 1975. *Hoarding of corn by Golden-fronted Woodpeckers.* Wilson Bull. 87:553. Woodpeckers drove Cedar Waxwings and Cardinals from Turkey feeding station located about 10 miles east of Fort McCavett, Menard County.

Martin, R. F., and R. K. Selander. 1975. *Morphological and biochemical evidence of hybridization between Cave and Barn Swallows.* Condor 77:362-364. Existence of hybrids and morphological and biochemical evidence suggest that these species should be within the same genus.

Neill, R. L. 1975. *The birds of the Buescher Division.* TUTESP Publ. 3. 119 pp. Bulletin of bird species at the Buescher Division of the Environmental Science Park in Bastrop County.

Pruitt, J., and N. McGowan. 1975. *The return of the Great-tailed Grackle.* Am. Birds 29:985-992. Reviewed certain aspects of Great-tailed and Boat-tailed Grackle natural history and identification; several color paintings.

Runnels, S. R. 1975. *Rose-throated Becard in Jeff Davis County, Texas.* Condor 77:221. Sight and collection record; unknown if wandering or extension of breeding range.

Rylander, M. K. 1975. *On the function of the posterior iliotrochantericus muscle in young whistling ducks.* Auk 92:376-377. ". . . the femur rotated slightly but also protracted through an arc of about 10 degrees, thus supporting its possible role as a protactor in climbing ducklings."

Shifflett, W. A. 1975. *Ruddy Ground Dove in south Texas.* Auk 92: 604. Photographed Jan. 1971 on Santa Ana NWR.

Shifflett, W. A. 1975. *First photographic record of the Brown Jay in the United States.* Auk 92:797. June 1974 along Rio Grande west of Roma.

Strait, L. E., and N. F. Sloan. 1975. *Movements and mortality of juvenile White Pelicans from North Dakota.* Wilson Bull. 87:54-59. Texas recoveries were 13% of total.

Whitson, M. 1975. *Courtship behavior of the Greater Roadrunner.* Living Bird 14:215-255. Courtship behavior of males and females is described from throughout the breeding cycle; data is from Big Bend, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

—1976—

Cain, B. W. 1976. *Energetics of growth for Black-bellied Tree Ducks.* Condor 78:124-128. Existence energy increased with age and body weight; productive energy increased during the first six weeks of growth, the period of rapid growth and feather development.

Crawford, J. A., and E. G. Bolen. 1976. *Effects of land use on Lesser Prairie Chickens in Texas.* J. Wildl. Manage. 40:96-104. Results indicated that extensive areas of native rangeland interspersed with cropland are required to sustain populations.

Crawford, J. A., and E. G. Bolen. 1976. *Effects of lek disturbances on Lesser Prairie Chickens in Texas.* Southwest. Nat. 21:238-41. ". . . construction of an area so that it resembles an abandoned oil pad may encourage cocks to form new leks if adjacent habitat is otherwise adequate."

Crawford, J. A., and E. G. Bolen. 1976. *Fall diet of Lesser Prairie Chickens in west Texas.* Condor 78:142-144. Cultivated crops were important food items, but provided little else regarding the habitat necessary for the birds thoughout the year.

Delnicki, D., and E. G. Bolen. 1976. *Renesting by the Black-bellied Whistling Duck.* Auk 93:535-542. Birds renested near the first nest after clutches were removed by observers or after natural loss of a brood. No new courtship behavior, change in nest construction, or reduced clutch size was noted.

Delnicki, D., E. G. Bolen, and C. Cottam. 1976. *An unusual clutch size of the Black-bellied Whistling Duck.* Wilson Bull. 88: 247-348. A nest box containing 101 eggs was incubated for at least 36 days (27.5 = normal) with 38 ducklings hatched.

Folse, L. J., Jr., and K. A. Arnold. 1976. *Secondary sex characteristics in Roadrunners.* Bird-Banding 47:115-118. The post orbital apterium was found to be white in males, and blue in females. However, ". . . this method . . . is not infallible."

Hanson, M. T. 1976. *A Great-tailed Grackle captures and kills a House Sparrow.* Southwest. Nat. 21:240-241. "Killing of this female did not have a lasting effect on the other sparrows as they resumed eating grain among the grackles."

Marion, W. R. 1976. *Plain Chachalaca food habits in south Texas.* Auk 93:376-379. Utilizing mostly vegetable matter, the birds did not damage cultivated crops; formed loose feeding flocks in the fall and winter.

Mock, D. W. 1976. *Pair-formation displays of the Great Blue Heron.* Wilson Bull. 88:185-230. Describes and illustrates social signals used in Minnesota and Texas breeding colonies.

Ohlendorf, H. M. 1976. *Comparative breeding ecology of phoebes in Trans-Pecos Texas.* Wilson Bull. 88:255-271. Black and Say's Phoebes showed differences in feeding behavior and nesting requirements.

Parker, J. W. 1976. *Pesticides and eggshell thinning in the Mississippi Kite.* J. Wildl. Manage. 40:243-248. Eggshell thinning is minor and unlikely to effect reproductive success on a regional basis.

Abstracted by: JAMES P. GRIFFING, *Dept. Biological Sciences, Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock 79409,* and MICHAEL L. MORRISON, *Dept. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M Univ., College Station 77843.*

BOOK REVIEWS

A.B.A. CHECKLIST: BIRDS OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND CANADA by Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association. 1975. American Birding Association, Inc., P.O. Box 4335, Austin, Texas 78765. 64 pp. $3.50.—This A.B.A. publication is a handy checklist which includes, as so designated, the "native North American breeding species, the regular visitors, the accidentals from other countries that are believed to have strayed here without the direct aid of man, and those introduced species that have become well established and are now a true part of our avifauna." A total of 794 species are listed by common and scientific name. A most useful feature is a listing of the important published records for the accidental species.—Michael Kent Rylander

THE VIEW FROM HAWK MOUNTAIN by Michael Harwood. 1976. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 191 pp. $2.95.—This book describes the Hawk Mountain area of the Kittatinny Ridge, Pennsylvania, its history, the people associated with it, and the raptors that migrate past it. Mr. Harwood is seemingly knowledgeable, authoritative, and full of history. However, his writing style is too detailed, rambling, and laced with inconvenient subthoughts. There are many interesting divisions, especially one devoted to the Peregrine Falcon, but to reach these scattered points of interest one must trudge slowly through detailed descriptions of areas most of us have never seen as well as genealogies of people most have never heard of.

My suggestion is to bypass this work, grab your binoculars, get outside, and do your own birding. This will be much more rewarding than reading *The View from Hawk Mountain*.—Mark Byard

A GUIDE TO BIRD-WATCHING IN EUROPE edited by James Ferguson-Lees, Quentin Hockliffe and Ko Zweeres. 1976. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 298 pp. $9.95.—*A Guide to Birdwatching in Europe* is not a guide to birdfinding in the usual sense of the term, as the regions are treated rather generally, without detailed directions for locating specific birding areas, or helpful local road maps. (The country maps, in fact, are in much less detail than the map a birder touring Europe would likely be carrying with him.) Also, some parts are out of date even at the time of printing. Nevertheless, the book contains general accounts of the birds of Europe that were written by various authorities. Birders planning a trip to Europe might wish to read the appropriate account of their region to get an idea of the birds that could be encountered. The appendix is a checklist of birds of Europe, by country. From a practical point of view, this book will probably not be as useful as others available on the same subject, such as those by John Gooders.—Michael Kent Rylander

ANOTHER PENGUIN SUMMER by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. 1975. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 80 pp. $10.00.—The five penguin species which use the Falkland Islands as their breeding grounds are beautifully profiled in this book. The text generally describes penguins and differentiates each species in terms of their behavior. The closeup photography is outstanding. While protraying the mating habits and formidable problems of penguin life, Dr. Pettingill delightfully captures the awkward and humorous aspects of living which we often forget are not confined to the human situation.—Sherry Heiden

NOTES AND NEWS

SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

THE *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society* publishes articles and notes on original ornithological research or observations. Articles and notes dealing with Texas birds are preferred. General articles on topics of interest to *TOS* members are also welcomed.

All manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate to the editor. Each manuscript will be read by one or more reviewers who will provide the editor advice on the article's acceptability and accuracy.

Manuscripts, including tables, should be typewritten and double-spaced on one side of 8½ × 11 inch paper. Submitted articles, notes and reviews should follow the format observed in this and subsequent issues of the *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*. Feature articles should include a "literature cited" section. Shorter articles and notes, with five cited works or less, should use parenthetical citations, e.g. (Oberholser 1974. *The Bird Life of Texas*, Univ. Texas Press, Austin).

Scientific and common names of North American birds should follow the 1957 A.O.U. Check-list and supplements. The 24-hour clock (0730), the continental dating convention (2 October 1976) and the metric system should be used.

Proofs of articles and notes will be sent to authors for review and correction. Immediate return of proofs is necessary. Reprints of articles, notes and reviews may be ordered on forms sent with proofs.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE—The editor wishes to thank Frances Williams, Keith Arnold, Dean Fisher, Warren Pulich, Terry Maxwell, George Newman, and Kent Rylander for reviewing manuscripts submitted for publication during 1976. I am grateful to Jean Schulz for typing much of the final copy and to Michael L. Morrison who provided editorial assistance for Volume IX of the *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT—The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has color-banded 17,000 fish-eating birds and Cattle Egrets since 1974 with 1" × 2" green, blue, orange, red, silver or purple leg flags. The following 12 species have been color banded: Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Reddish Egret, Louisiana Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, and Black Skimmer. We would appreciate receiving reports concerning sightings of these birds. Please include in the observations the location of sighting, species, date and time, color of flag, and condition of bird. Report observations to: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

COLOR-MARKED SEMIPALMATED AND LEAST SANDPIPERS—In 1976 and 1977 the Surinam Forest Service plans to color-band large numbers of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers along the Surinam coast, northeastern South America. The objective of this study is to obtain more information about the origin of birds visiting Surinam and about their migration routes to and from this country. All birds will be banded above the tarsus ("knee") with one standard aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service band and two orange-color bands of about the same size as the aluminum band.

Should you see any of these birds, please write to: Arie L. Spaans, Surinam Forest Service, P.O. Box 436, Paramaribo, Surinam, South America. Indicate species, location and date of observation, the position of the aluminum and color-bands (left or right, and, if more than one band is on a leg, which band is above and which below), and number of color-banded birds involved.

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT—An effort to locate past and present breeding colonies of Olivaceous Cormorants in the United States is being initiated as part of a natural history study of this little known bird. All records, no matter how brief and/or old, are needed. Data concerning time of breeding, size and location of colony, and number of eggs or young per nest will be used to assess the past and current status of this cormorant. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to: Michael Morrison, Dept. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M Univ., College Station, Texas 77843.

FROM THE EDITOR

Beginning with Volume X the *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society* will have a new look. Plans have been approved by the Board of Directors to change the size of the *TOS Bulletin* to a 7 × 10" format. Details on type sizes and faces, number of columns, etc. are still in the formative stages. The new format will be large enough to do justice to photographs or artwork, reduce current page make-up responsibilities of the editor and save the *TOS* approximately $75 per issue. The new look will include a standardized front cover featuring the familiar *TOS* logo (opposite column). I plan to highlight in each issue an original drawing pertinent to Texas ornithology—see the Carolina Chickadee on the front cover of this issue.

Although the *TOS Bulletin* will look different externally, the value of the *Bulletin* still lies with the contributions contained within. I intend to continue the emphasis on articles about Texas birds. (See SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS on page 11 of this issue.) So dust off your field or research notes, sharpen your pencils and write up those valuable observations!

Copulatory behavior of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers from near Benjamin, Texas, on 4 July 1976. Photograph by Wyman Meinzer.

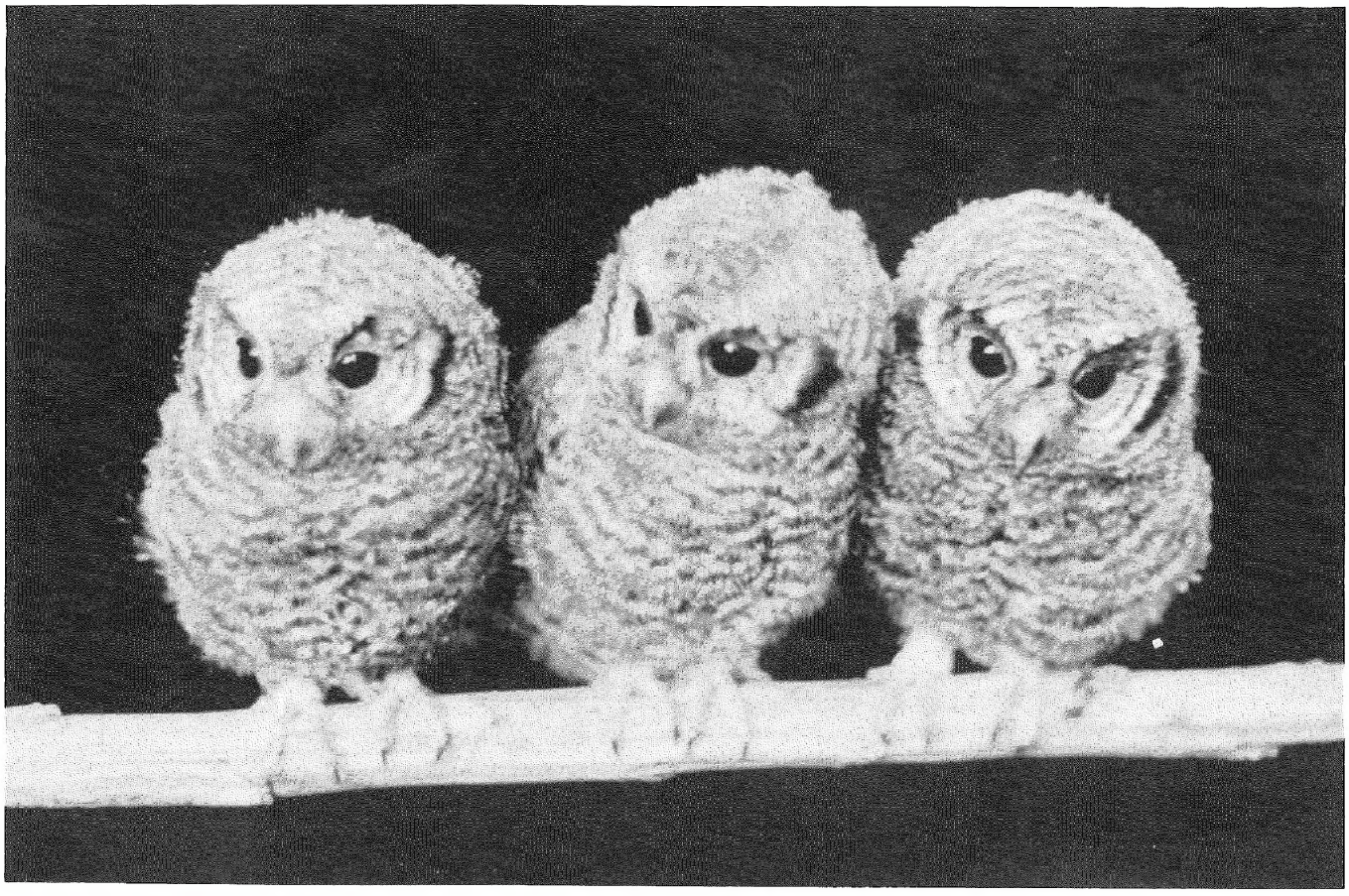
BULLETIN

OF THE

TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

R. DOUGLAS SLACK, Editor
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 2744



Flammulated Owls at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Alpine, Texas, July 1976. Photograph by Charles Kowaleski.